

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 23, 2012 3:30 P.M.
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
House Bill 2143
Relating to Public Housing

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 2143, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports enactment of this measure, which would amend Section 356D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide the HPHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) with more flexibility in nominating the resident member of the Board of Directors.

When a vacancy occurs for the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors, Section 356D-6, HRS, requires the RAB to develop a list of interested, qualified individuals for consideration by the Governor for appointment to the Board. The current statutory section requires the RAB to provide the names of five individuals. In situations where there are not five interested individuals, the Resident Advisory Board is unable to provide a list to the Governor for consideration, which can cause the resident member seat on the Board of Directors to remain vacant for extended periods.

This, in turn, deprives the residents of their voice on the Board of Directors and endangers the receipt of Federal funds since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the Board of Directors to have a resident member. By amending the statute section to allow the RAB to submit a list of at least three but no more than five names to the Governor, the RAB is better positioned to provide the most serious, qualified, and interested candidates while still providing a diverse selection for the Governor's consideration. This statutory amendment has been requested specifically by the RAB to improve the fulfillment of their statutory functions.

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The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the agency's position regarding H.B. 2143. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
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February 23, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2143 - RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2012; 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to provide the Hawaii Public Housing Authority resident advisory board the flexibility to submit a list of no less than three but no more than five names of nominees to fill the resident member seat on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

When a vacancy occurs for the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors, current statute requires the Resident Advisory Board to provide the names of five individuals to the Governor for consideration. When the Resident Advisory Board is unable to provide a list of five names to the Governor, the resident member seat on the Board of Directors may remain vacant for extended periods. This, in turn, deprives the residents of their voice on the Board of Directors and endangers the receipt of Federal

funds since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the Board of Directors to have a resident member.

Allowing the Resident Advisory Board to submit a list of at least three but no more than five names to the Governor, will facilitate the filling of the resident member seat on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.